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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/674,074	09/29/2003	Alwyn Johannes Voorman	PTT-184 (402852US)	1216

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EXAMINER	
TIEU, BINH KIEN	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2614	

DATE MAILED: 12/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/674,074	VOORMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	BINH K. TIEU	2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *03 October 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *14-26* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *14-26* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/03/2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 14-15 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takatori et al. (Pub. No.: US 2003/0078844 A1) in view of Rowe (Pub. No.: US 2005/0021458 A1) (***Both references were cited in the previous Office Action***).

Regarding claims 14 and 26, Takatori et al. ("Takatori") teaches a service accounting system and a method for use in said service accounting system. Takatori teaches that a user can open and owned a plurality of billing accounts with a main account designated to be charged (see paragraphs [0056] and [0065]). Takatori further teaches that the user can charge directly to the main account (see paragraph [0084]). Takatori further teaches that each of the service accounts can has a classification and be charged in accordance with a call destination assigned thereto (see paragraphs [0111] through [0134]).

Takatori teach said method and system for charging telephone calls to a plurality of selected billing accounts based on billing account information previously registered, wherein the selected billing accounts are associated with one of registered call destination numbers (see paragraphs [0112], [0116] and [0121]).

Takatori fails to clearly teach first and second counts of the service accounts have said classification associated respectively with a data transportation service and a content access service. However, these differences are only found in the ***nonfunctional descriptive material*** and are not functionally involved in the features recited. The features of "registering" the plurality of billing accounts associated with the destination numbers, which may be represented a data service source and a content access service source, would be performed the same regardless of the types of a data transportation service and a content access service. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior ad in terms of patentability, see In re Gulack, 703 F.2d 1381 , 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404
(Fed. Cir. 1983)', In re Lowry, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

It should be also noticed that Takatori fails to clearly teach the feature of transferring funds from the main account to the plurality of accounts. However, Rowe teaches such feature in paragraph [0128] for a purpose of making payments to each particular supplier for their bills.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of the feature of transferring funds from the main account to the plurality of accounts, as taught by Rowe, into view of Takatori in order to pay for services.

Regarding claim 15, Rowe further teaches limitations of the claim in paragraphs [0120]-[0122].

4. Claims 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takatori et al. (Pub. No.: US 2003/0078844 A1) in view of Rowe (Pub. No.: US 2005/0021458 A1), as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Wallenius (US Pat. #: 6,70,417 ***as cited in the previous Office Action***).

Regarding claim 16, Takatori and Rowe, in combination, teaches all subject matters as claimed above. It is noticed that Rowe further that "allowance" accounts are automatically obtained funds transferred from the main account at predetermined intervals. Rowe fails to clearly teach the feature of transmitting a recharging request to the main accounting system as needed. However, Wallenius teaches such features in col.6, lines 10-25 for a purpose of preventing the account of billing unit from exhausted.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to of ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of the feature of transmitting a recharging request to the main accounting system as needed, as taught by Wallenius, into view of Takatori and Rowe in order to prevent the accounts from exhausted for the services.

Regarding claim 17, Wallenius further teaches limitations of the claim in col.6, lines 20-22.

5. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takatori et al. (Pub. No.: US 2003/0078844 A1) in view of Rowe (Pub. No.: US 2005/0021458 A1), as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Hidem et al. (US Pat. #: 5,749,052 also c***ited in the previous Office Action***).

Regarding claim 18, Takatori and Rowe, in combination, teaches all subject matters as claimed above, except that said recharging request is transmitted at a predefined point of time. However, Hidem et al. ("Hidem") teaches such feature in col.13, line 46 through col.14, line 14, line 67 for a purpose of providing the maximum balance the prepaid account.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of said recharging request is transmitted via an end user request, as taught by Masuda, into view of Takatori and Rowe in order to improve the prepaid telecommunications services with convenience of update account for the maximum, to be provided to prepaid subscriber.

6. Claims 19-25 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takatori et al. (Pub. No.: US 2003/0078844 A1) in view of Rowe (Pub. No.: US 2005/0021458 A1), as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Masuda (Pub. No.: US 20030078031 also c***ited in the previous Office Action***).

Regarding claim 19, Takatori and Rowe, in combination, teaches all subject matters as claimed above, except that said recharging request is transmitted via an end user request. However, Masuda teaches such feature in paragraphs [0066] and [0081] for a purpose of balancing the prepaid account.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of said recharging request is transmitted via an end user request, as taught by Masuda, into view of Takatori and Rowe in order to improve the prepaid telecommunications services with convenience of update account as required, to be provided to prepaid subscriber.

Regarding claim 20, Masuda further teaches the limitations of the claim in paragraph [0062]

Regarding claims 21-25, Masuda further teaches the limitations of the claims in paragraphs [0059], [0065]-[0066] and [0076]-[0077].

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 14-26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for response to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the date of this action. In the event a first response is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event will

the statutory period for response expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any response to this final action should be mailed to:
Box AF
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231
Or faxed to:
(703) 872-9314 or (571) 273-8300 (for formal communications; please mark "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE")
Or:
If it is an informal or draft communication, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")
Hand Carry Deliveries to:
Customer Service Window
(Randolph Building)
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Binh K. Tieu whose telephone number is (571) 272-7510 and E-mail address: BINH.TIEU@USPTO.GOV.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Curtis Kuntz, can be reached on (571) 272-7499 and **IF PAPER HAS BEEN MISSED FROM THIS OFFICIAL ACTION PACKAGE, PLEASE CALL Customer Service at (703) 306-0377 FOR THE SUBSTITUTIONS OR COPIES.**

In formation regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (FAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the FAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BINH TIEU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Art Unit 2614

Date: December 05, 2006